



Lake Norman Marine Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2026

The Lake Norman Marine Commission met in Regular Session on Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library Community Room at 9154 Sherrills Ford Road, Terrell, NC 28682.

Members present were Barbara Beatty, Tim Holder, Jason Ralston, Cameron Sloan, Gregory Truesdell (virtual), and Rob Weller. Members not present were Jarid Church, Richard Gaskins, and Billy Wilson. Also present were Lake Norman Marine Commission Executive Director Jim Loftin, Attorney Chris Clark (virtual), and Centralina Regional Council staff support to the board Megan Upchurch.

- 1. Call to Order & Approval of Agenda.** Commission Vice-Chair Beatty called the regular meeting of the Lake Norman Marine Commission to order at 7:02 p.m., noting a quorum was present. A motion was made by Commissioner Holder and seconded by Commissioner Sloan to approve the meeting agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission introduced and welcomed new member Rob Weller as the newest Lincoln County Commission.
- 2. Approval of Minutes.** The Commission reviewed the minutes from the regular monthly board meeting held on July 16, 2026. Commissioner Ralston made a motion to approve July 16, 2026 minutes as distributed. Commission Holder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- 3. Public Comments**
 - Matt with Carolina Cruising Charters expressed concern regarding the sharp rise in unlicensed charter operations on Lake Norman. He urged the Commission to consider the impacts of illegal charters as they review related policies and regulations.
 - Tom Kirkland at Stonemarker Road HOA / Brawley School Road reported issues with a neighbor parking two commercial charter boats at their private HOA marina. He



stated that Duke Energy issued a formal warning letter to the HOA threatening lease revocation if the commercial vessels are not removed. He noted that the boat owner denies operating a business.

4. Partner Reports

- **Catawba County Lake Patrol:** Staff reported monthly activity, including 315 hours on the water, 89 boat inspections, 218 property checks, 20 calls for service, 202 community contacts, 17 navigational hazard removals, 65 enforcement actions, and 18 vessels assisted. The rope swing tree was removed a few weeks prior. However, individuals have begun climbing an adjacent horizontal tree extending over the water. Patrol will continue to monitor the area. Staff will be assisting with the kickoff of the Carolina Health Outdoor 23-mile paddle race.
- **Cornelius Police Department:** Staff reported monthly activity, including responding to 22 lake calls for service (average response time: ~5 minutes), conducted 277 zone checks, and completed 21 lake-related activities. Staff also participated in teaching water safety classes at the Peninsula Yacht Club and annual summer camp.
- **Iredell County Lake Patrol:** Staff reported monthly activity, including 9 community meetings attended, 29 PWC inspections, 48 boat inspections, 35 safety violations, 26 equipment violations, 3 alcohol offenses, 10 disabled vessels, 1 sinking/distress vessel, 4 navigation hazards removed, 1 drowning incident, 3 medical calls, 2 fire assists, 10 law assists, 30 vessel stops, and 3 Remotely Operated Vehicle deployments.
- **Lincoln County Sheriff's Office:** Staff reported monthly activity, including 35 vessel stops, 7 assisted boaters, 3 hazard removals, 4 public contacts, 1 911 hang-up call, 5 Apple Crash Detection alerts, 1 alarm, 1 assist to another agency, 2 public assistance calls, and 3 boating complaints.
- **U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary:** Staff reported monthly activity, including 18 water patrols (83 hours), 11 public boating safety classes (197 students graduated), and 358 vessel safety checks conducted. Additionally, staff taught safety checks during Cornelius PD's Summer Camp on July 24, graduated 5 students at Denver Fire Dept (July 18), 13 youth at Huntersville PD camp, 5 employees at Lancaster Custom Docks, and conducted night patrol training.



- **NC Wildlife Resources Commission:** Staff reported monthly activity, including investigating several BUI incidents and two PWC crashes (one in Catawba County and one in Iredell County). The state acquired 3 new underwater ROVs with one being based in Cleveland County for local deployment.
 - **Lake Fire Departments:** Staff reported monthly activity, including assisting with the upcoming paddle event over the weekend. In early September, Catawba County Fire will conduct TR Water Certification training on Lake Norman before moving to state facility swift-water training.
 - **Duke Energy Lake Services:** Mr. Caleb Williams updated the Commissioners and noted that the area remains under Low Inflow Protocol Level 2 drought management. He added that water levels have shown temporary improvement due to recent rain, but drought restrictions remain active until all required system metrics clear.
 - **Catawba Riverkeeper:** Captain Ronnie announced the upcoming annual River Sweep cleanup event and requested volunteer site captains and boat captains. He noted that the Floating Classroom program is operational, serving multiple local school districts and featured on local news.
- 5. Catawba-Wateree FERC Project Overview / Low Inflow Protocols.** Mr. Brett Hartis, the Duke Energy Catawba-Wateree FERC License Manager provided a detailed overview to the Commissions on both the FERC project and low inflow protocols. He noted the Catawba River system was the first comprehensively planned river basin for hydro power generation in the U.S. and the is serves about 2 million people with drinking water, powers 12 hydro stations, supports nuclear/fossil plant cooling, features 25,000+ shoreline neighbors, and draws about 26 million recreation visitors annually. Duke Energy operates under a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license. Relicensing involved the Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement, signed by 70+ stakeholders (including 27 local governments and tribes) after 300+ meetings to balance multi-use water demands across the basin.
- 6. Non-Project Use Application Follow-up: Duke Energy Combustion Turbine Intake.** Duke Energy staff and their consultant HDR made themselves available to answer any follow-up questions from the July meeting regarding this non-project use application.



After minimal discussion, a motion was made for approval by Commissioner Sloan and seconded by Commissioner Ralston.

- 7. Operational updates.** Mr. Gary Mozeley provided brief updates on replacements continuing to happen across the lake. He noted that he and his team continue to receive new requests in addition to the known replacements.
- 8. Review of Revised Bylaws.** Mr. Chris Clark provided a brief overview of the updated drafted bylaws to the Commission with a timeline to work with the Commissioners over the next couple of months to refine and finalize.
- 9. Committee Updates.** No updates were provided during this meeting.
- 10. Open discussion and adjourn.** There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ralston and seconded by Commissioner Holder. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.